

ISTITUTO SIEROTERAPICO MILANESE

"SERAFFINO BELFANTI"

ENTE MORALE AGGREGATO ALLA UNIVERSITÀ DI MILANO
MILANO - VIA DARWIN, 20

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Direzione Scientifica

Milano, 1:2:50

Dear Lederberg,

Thank you for your letter and your offer to republish the paper on chloromycetin resistance. I shall be of course very pleased, and have written to the editors of Nature about it.

As you will see from the heading of this letter, I have left England. I have asked Professor Fisher a year of leave, but it is likely that I shall reestablish myself in this country. On the whole I can get here better working conditions, especially more technical help than I had in Cambridge. All I had there was a fifteen years girl for the preparation of media etc. I shall certainly miss, on the other hand, Fisher's great encouragement and friendship.

I have been very interested to hear of your new findings on the frequency of crossable strains. I often feel we still lack knowledge of conditions in which any strain can cross, but that perhaps such conditions exist. So far, in trials mainly with biochemical mutants I have failed with seven strains (one *Aerobacter*, one *Proteus*, ~~five~~ *E. coli*) and succeeded with none. At the moment I have left this type of research, and am simply trying to bring the chloromycetin story ready for full publication.

I am enclosing a reprint of the letter to Nature; three more of the same will follow by ordinary mail, together with reprints of an oldish Italian paper, which was meant merely ~~for~~ as propaganda for sex among local bacteriologists (who proved more responsive than the British ones).

Some time ago I tried to get some financial support for spending a summer in the States, but have been unsuccessful. I am thinking of trying with the Rockefeller and Fulbright institutions but I should think it would be now for summer 1952.

Yours sincerely

Luigi Cavalli

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